

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011  
7:30 P.M.

Members present: Francis A. Hegarty, Chairman  
Steven P. Rose  
Robert F. Brady, Jr.

Others present: Michael McCue, Town Administrator  
Joseph Lalli, Town Counsel

Chairman Hegarty called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with all members present.

Mr. Rose made a motion to accept the minutes of Thursday, December 1, 2011 (Regular Session) as written. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**7:35 p.m.—Meeting with Board of Assessors to continue Tax Classification Hearing**

Board of Assessors Chair Bruce Lane, Assessor Cindi Bernasconi, Assistant Assessor David Wood and Tax Collector Michael DePesa were in attendance to reconvene the Tax Classification Hearing from Tuesday, December 6, 2011.

Chairman Bruce Lane discussed the Fiscal 2012 Tax Levy Limitations for Avon. After some discussion, the Assessors recommended setting the new package of tax classifications, using a residential factor of .65 as follows:

Residential Rate:	\$13.58
Commercial/Industrial	\$28.82
Personal Property	\$28.79

Mr. Rose made a motion to set the tax classification rates as listed above. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Rose made a motion to reaffirm the 10% small business tax exemption. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There were no public comments during the Open Forum.

Tax Collector Michael DePesa appeared before the Board requesting a reserve fund transfer, in the amount of \$14,000.00, to cover the cost of interest regarding an ATB (Appellate Tax Board) case that was settled. The case took over three years to settle. Although there is money set aside for such settlements, it is difficult to predict when a case may be settled and allotted funds will not suffice. Mr. DePesa also questioned why the Tax Collector's budget should have to pay the interest from such settlements? Mr. McCue stated this manner of payment is State law.

Mr. Rose suggested a reserve fund transfer of \$6000, followed by another reserve transfer of \$8000; so that the entire amount was not taken out at once. Mr. Rose asked how can the Tax Collector budget for ATB cases when it is difficult to predict when ATB cases would be settled.

After further discussion, Mr. Rose made a motion to approve the transfer of \$14,000 from the reserve fund as identified in the Tax Collector's request, knowing that there may be additional interest payments. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. McCue departed to attend a Finance Committee meeting.

A request for reappointment as Alternate Wire Inspector was received from George Davey. A letter of interest was not received originally from Mr. Davey when reappointments were made.

Mr. Rose made a motion to reappoint George Davey of 333 Pine Street, Holbrook, to the position of Alternate Wire Inspector, term to expire: June 30, 2012. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. All were in favor.

It was unanimously voted to grant a 2:00 a.m. closing time to all On Premise Liquor License Establishments for New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31, 2011.

### **Public Announcements**

Chairman Hegarty announced William O'Donnell, Register of Deeds, will hold office hours at the Avon Town Hall on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. The Register and members of his staff will be available to help answer questions or concerns about any Registry of Deeds matter. No appointment is needed.

A winter parking ban is in effect in the Town of Avon from November 15 through March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting dates for the month of January are as follows:

Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

A request for gift acceptance was received from the Council on Aging from Julia Schales, in the amount of \$50.00, to be used for the COA lunch on January 5, 2012.

Mr. Brady made a motion to accept the \$50.00 gift donation to the Council on Aging to be used for their luncheon on January 5, 2012. The motion was seconded by Chairman Hegarty. Mr. Rose abstained from voting. The motion carried.

An application for a temporary sign permit was received from Christmas Tree Shops at 15 Stockwell Drive for permission to display a 3 x 10 banner advertising "Clearance" for the period December 26, 2011 through January 26, 2012.

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the temporary sign permit for Christmas Tree Shops to display one banner from December 26, 2011 through January 26, 2012. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rose made a motion to approve all vouchers for the payment of bills minus one for Tibbetts Engineering. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mr. McCue returned to the meeting.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. McCue reported there is a person expressing interest in a surplus truck parked behind the Fire Station. Mr. McCue reported to the Board that he needs to find out how to auction this vehicle off and will follow up with the information when he obtains it.

Mr. McCue informed the Board that a letter was received from the Department of Housing & Community Development congratulating the Town of Avon on receiving a grant for Peer-to Peer technical assistance. Under this program, Shaun Burke, Director, Office of Planning and Development for the Town of Mansfield, will serve as a peer consultant to assist the Town to develop options for downtown economic development.

The award is in the amount of \$1000.00 and will cover up to 30 hours of technical assistance.

Mr. McCue announced around the middle of January he would schedule a public records training free of charge for the Town Hall staff.

At 8:10 p.m. Mr. Rose made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy relative to collective bargaining. Mr. Brady seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Rose voted aye  
Mr. Brady voted aye  
Chairman Hegarty voted aye

The Board would not reconvene in Open Session.

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Hegarty wanted to wish a healthy and prosperous New Year to all. Thank you to all for your help and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Rothstein  
Secretary